

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please delete and then replace the “**Abstract**” section with the following amended abstract:

~~The present invention provides an instrument and method for surgical extraction. In one example, a A surgical instrument for extracting a prosthetic device that includes a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein. The the insertion configuration is adapted for displacement along a portion of a prosthetic device, and the extraction configuration is adapted for engaging and extracting the prosthetic device, and a proximal portion connected to the distal portion. In another example, an instrument for surgical extraction includes at least one extraction prong wherein the at least one extraction prong comprises a transverse flange, and a mounting portion wherein the at least one extraction prong is secured to the mounting portion.~~

2. Please replace paragraph [000049] with the following amended paragraph:

[000049] As discussed above, the engaging member 60 may comprise at least partially a relatively flexible, resilient material so as to facilitate transformation of the engaging member 60 from the compressed configuration illustrated in FIG. 3a to the expanded configuration illustrated in FIG. 3b. In one embodiment, the extraction prongs 62a, 62b are outwardly biased toward the expanded configuration illustrated in FIG. 3b. In order to further facilitate the transition from the compressed configuration to the expanded configuration, the extraction prongs 62a, 62b may include a curved intermediate portions portion 63a, 63b having a bow-like or arcuate configuration. The intermediate portions portion 63a, 63b may function similar to that of a leaf spring, storing energy upon the imposition of a compression force onto the extraction prongs 62a, 62b and discharging the energy upon the release of the compression force to expand the extraction prongs 62a, 62b. In one embodiment, the interface between

each of the extraction prongs 62a, 62b and the mounting plate 64 defines a rounded corner 69. The rounded corners 69 serve to strengthen the interconnection between the extraction prongs 62a, 62b and the mounting plate 64, and minimize stress concentrations during compression and expansion of the extraction prongs 62a, 62b and/or to further facilitate transitioning of the extraction prongs 62a, 62b from the compressed configuration to the expanded configuration.

3. Please replace paragraph [000053] with the following amended paragraph:

[000053] As discussed above, the engaging member 70 may comprise at least partially a relatively flexible, resilient material to facilitate transformation of the engaging member 70 from the compressed configuration illustrated in FIG. 3a to the expanded configuration illustrated in FIG. 3b. In one embodiment, the extraction prongs 72a, 72b are outwardly biased toward the expanded configuration illustrated in FIG. 3b. In order to further facilitate transformation from the compressed configuration to the expanded configuration, the extraction prongs 72a, 72b may include a curved intermediate portions portion 73a, 73b, each having a bow-like or arcuate configuration. Like the intermediate portion[s] 63a, 63b of the extraction prongs 62a, 62b, the intermediate ~~portions portion~~ 73a, 73b may also function similar to that of a leaf spring, storing and releasing energy to facilitate transitioning of the extraction prongs 72a, 72b from the insertion configuration to the extraction configuration illustrated in FIG. 3b. In one embodiment, the interface between the extraction prongs 72a, 72b and the mounting plate 74 defines a concave recess 79. The concave recess 79 serves to strengthen the interconnection between the extraction prongs 72a, 72b and the mounting plate 74, to minimize stress concentrations during compression and expansion of the extraction prongs 72a, 72b and/or to further facilitate transitioning of the extraction prongs 72a, 72b from the compressed configuration to the expanded configuration.